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Applicant: NOETZEL, JOHN G.

Group Art Unit: 1745

JAN 20 2006

TITLE: SOLID OXIDE AUXILIARY POWER UNIT REFORMATE CONTROL

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 31, 2005

Dear Sir:

This is Applicants' response to the Office Action mailed October 21, 2005 rejecting claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-28, and 31-42. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-28, and 31-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable § 103(a) as unpatentable over Okada et al U.S. Patent 6,266,576 in view of Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1 and 23 each requires a controllable valve disposed in a reformate stream that is controlled in response to desired reformate pressure, measured reformate pressure from a reformate pressure sensor, and the position of the control valve. The Office Action takes the position that the Okada et al reference discloses each of these elements except for the use of valve position. Applicants respectfully disagree.